

**DISK DRIVE HAVING A PROTECTED PARTITION CONFIGURED TO LOAD AN
OPERATING SYSTEM FOR PERFORMING A USER-SELECTED FUNCTION**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system for configuring, loading and executing an operating system for performing a user-selected function is disclosed. The system includes a disk drive including: a host-accessible user partition; a host-inaccessible hidden partition independent of the host-accessible user partition; and a disk controller. The user partition includes: a user partition address range; a host-selected operating system; and a host-selected master boot record. The host-inaccessible hidden partition includes: a
10 hidden partition address range outside the user partition address range; an application program for allowing a user to select a function to perform and configuring, loading and executing an operating system to perform the selected function; and a drive-selected boot record for loading and executing the application program that allows the user to select a function and configures, loads and executes an operating system for performing the function.

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